

REMARKS

AMENDMENTS

Applicants amend claims 1, 11, and 12 herein, and cancel claim 8. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §103(A)

The examiner rejects claims 1-12 under 35 USC §103(a) over Tani et al., JP 10-231317. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present claims are drawn to processes for the polymerization of olefins using catalysts comprising a transition metal complex with a tridentate macrocyclic ligand, bearing at least one substituent having a donor function, and an aluminoxane. Tani specifically teaches away from such a process where an aluminoxane is utilized. See Tani et al., paragraph 0003.

As Tani neither suggests nor teaches all elements of the present claims, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not obvious over the disclosure therein. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

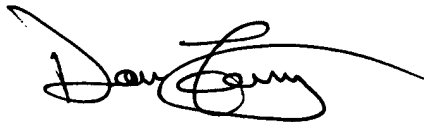
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants consider that the rejections of record have been obviated and respectfully solicit passage of the application to issue.

MIHAN et al., Serial No. 09/937,844

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Respectfully submitted,
KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Liechty', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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